

PRESS RELEASE
August 30, 2004

For More Information:

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Secretary of State
State of North Dakota
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Procedures for Out-of-Country Military and Civilian Voting
Immediate Action Encouraged!

The General Election on Tuesday, November 2, is only nine weeks from now. Secretary of State Al Jaeger and North Dakota National Guard Adjutant General, Major General Michael Haugen are encouraging North Dakota residents living or serving in the military outside of the United States to apply for absentee ballots from their county auditor as soon as possible. Family and friends of these citizens are asked to convey the message through their communications with family members serving abroad. The ballots for absentee voting will be available the last week in September.

A request for an absentee ballot can be made either by a family member or the voter in person, in writing, by telephone call, via fax, or by sending an e-mail message to the voter's county auditor. It must include the voter's name, legal voting address as well as mail and e-mail address where the ballot is to be sent. When the absentee ballot is available, the county auditor will send it directly to the out-of-country voter.

Election officials across the country have been notified that the round-trip delivery of mail to some parts of the world can take up to 45 days. This makes the mailing of ballots to the war-torn areas and returning them very challenging since absentee ballots will be available, at the earliest, 40 days prior to the November election. Fortunately, North Dakota law, since 1991, allows out-of-country qualified voters to receive, vote, and return their ballots by facsimile (fax) transmission.

Therefore, the Secretary of State's office has been working cooperatively since the fall of 2003 with the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), which is under the Secretary of Defense, to utilize its Electronic Transmission Service (ETS) to transmit the ballots via fax to qualified electors living and serving abroad.

To accomplish this, the ETS has a telephone number that provides the capability for North Dakota's county auditors to fax ballots to out-of-country qualified electors. The ETS can forward the transmission either as a fax or as an attachment via e-mail directly to the voter, whichever is directed by the county auditor. The voter will then print, complete the ballot, and use one of two options to return the ballot to the county auditor. They can scan the ballot and return it as an e-mail attachment through ETS, which will then fax the ballot to the county auditor. (As a precaution, all faxed or emailed ballots should be mailed as well to the county auditor) Or, the voter can return the ballot by mail. Either way, the transmission time for sending and receiving ballots will be greatly reduced and should allow the ballot to arrive in time to be counted. Of course, that is the prime objective.

For the absentee ballot to be counted in the General Election, it must be postmarked, or dated by midnight, November 1, 2004, in the Time Zone of your legal voting residence county in North Dakota. It must then arrive at the county auditor's office no later than three days after the election.

Additional information for military and overseas voters is available on the Secretary of State's website at www.state.nd.us/sec/electvote. The names of the county auditors, along with their email addresses, telephone, and fax numbers, can be found on the website as well. For further assistance, overseas military and civilian voters can also contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program at (800) 438-8683, or check out their website at www.fvap.gov.

North Dakota Armed Forces Personnel – Voting by Absentee Ballot

As a qualified North Dakota elector, you can apply for and vote with an absent voter's ballot. The General Election will be held on November 2, 2004. An elector can immediately apply for an absentee ballot. Depending on your location, you can select the applicable situation listed below and follow the steps listed. The ballots will be ready for mailing or fax transmission approximately 40 days prior to the election.

Stationed Within the United States of America

1. Apply for an absent voter's ballot. The application form is available on the Secretary of State's website at www.state.nd.us/sec/electvote/voting/index.html. On that page, click on Voting Forms and Publications, then, click on Absent Voter's Ballot Application (SFN 51468).
2. Complete the application and send it either by mail or fax to your North Dakota county auditor (contact information is below). This application should be submitted as soon as you know the address where the ballot is to be mailed within the 40 days prior to the election.
3. Follow the instructions provided when the ballot arrives, vote, and return it to the county auditor. To be counted, the return envelope must be postmarked by the postal service or officially marked by another delivery service prior to the day of the election. It must also arrive in the county auditor's office no later than three days after the election.

Stationed Outside the United States of America

1. Apply for an absent voter's ballot from your North Dakota county auditor (contact information is below). This can be done by mail, fax, or e-mail. Provide your county auditor with your North Dakota legal voting address and where the ballot can be mailed, or a fax number, or an email address where your ballot can be sent. This application should be submitted as soon as you know the address where the ballot is to be mailed within the 40 days prior to the election.
2. Follow the instructions provided when the ballot arrives, vote, and return the ballot immediately to the county auditor by following the instructions provided with the ballot. To be counted, the ballot and affidavit must have a sent date of no less than the day before the election.

Telephone numbers for questions, forms, and instructions for the Electronic Transmission of your ballot and other voting documents can be found at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website: www.fvap.gov/services/faxing.html. By this process, you can return your ballot to your county auditor through an option that suits your situation best.

North Dakota County Auditor Contact Information

Adams County Auditor

Box 589
Hettinger ND 58639-0589
701-567-4363 – Phone
701-567-2910 – Fax
pcarroll@state.nd.us

Barnes County Auditor

230 4th Street NW, Room 202
Valley City ND 58072-2947
701-845-8500 – Phone
701-845-8548 – Fax
emcgough@co.barnes.nd.us

Benson County Auditor

PO Box 206
Minnewaukan ND 58351-0206
701-473-5340 – Phone
701-473-5571 – Fax
bserickson@state.nd.us

Billings County Auditor

PO Box 168
Medora ND 58645-0168
701-623-4377 – Phone
701-623-4896 – Fax
auditor@midstate.net

Bottineau County Auditor

314 W 5th Street
Bottineau ND 58318-1204
701-228-2225 – Phone
701-228-3658 – Fax
mstreich@state.nd.us

Bowman County Auditor

PO Box 439
Bowman ND 58623-0439
701-523-3130 – Phone
701-523-5443 – Fax
stivis@state.nd.us

Burke County Auditor

PO Box 310
Bowbells ND 58721-0310
701-377-2861 – Phone
701-377-2020 – Fax
tbaumann@state.nd.us

Burleigh County Auditor

PO Box 5518
Bismarck ND 58506-5518
701-222-6718 – Phone
701-222-7528 – Fax
kqlatt@state.nd.us

Cass County Auditor

PO Box 2806
Fargo ND 58108-2806
701-241-5601 – Phone
701-241-5728 – Fax
montplaisir@co.cass.nd.us

Cavalier County Auditor

901 3rd Street, Ste 15
Langdon ND 58249-2457
701-256-2229 – Phone
701-256-2546 – Fax
doppel@state.nd.us

Dickey County Auditor

PO Box 215
Ellendale ND 58436-0215
701-349-3249 ext. 3 – Phone
701-349-4639 – Fax
lhoffman@state.nd.us

Divide County Auditor

PO Box 49
Crosby ND 58730-0049
701-965-6351 – Phone
701-965-6943 – Fax
gjastrze@state.nd.us

Dunn County Auditor

PO Box 105
Manning ND 58642-0105
701-573-4448 – Phone
701-573-4444 – Fax
rehauck@state.nd.us

Eddy County Auditor

524 Central Avenue
New Rockford ND 58356-1698
701-947-2434 – Phone
701-947-2279 – Fax
dyhaugen@state.nd.us

Emmons County Auditor

PO Box 129
Linton ND 58552-0129
701-254-4807 – Phone
701-254-4012 – Fax
amdockte@state.nd.us

Foster County Auditor

PO Box 104
Carrington ND 58421-0104
701-652-2441 – Phone
701-652-2173 – Fax
rschlotm@state.nd.us

Golden Valley County Auditor

PO Box 67
Beach ND 58621-0067
701-872-4331 – Phone
701-872-4383 – Fax
cstedman@midstate.net

Grand Forks County Auditor

PO Box 5726
Grand Forks ND 58206-5726
701-780-8200 – Phone
701-780-8207 – Fax
debbie.nelson@gfcounty.com

Grant County Auditor

PO Box 227
Carson ND 58529-0227
701-622-3275 – Phone
701-622-3005 – Fax
adiehl@state.nd.us

Griggs County Auditor

PO Box 511
Cooperstown ND 58425-0511
701-797-3117 – Phone
701-797-3587 – Fax
canton@state.nd.us

Hettinger County Auditor

PO Box 668
Mott ND 58646-0668
701-824-2515 – Phone
701-824-2717 – Fax
rsteiner@state.nd.us

Kidder County Auditor

PO Box 167
Steele ND 58482-0167
701-475-2632 – Phone
701-475-2202 – Fax
rgraf@state.nd.us

LaMoure County Auditor

PO Box 128
Lamoure ND 58458-0128
701-883-5301 – Phone
701-883-4220 – Fax
mijohnso@state.nd.us

Logan County Auditor

301 Broadway
Napoleon ND 58561-7010
701-754-2425 – Phone
701-754-2280 – Fax
baschuma@state.nd.us

McHenry County Auditor

PO Box 147
Towner ND 58788-0147
701-537-5724 – Phone
701-537-5969 – Fax
dkoble@state.nd.us

McIntosh County Auditor

PO Box D
Ashley ND 58413-0019
701-288-3347 – Phone
701-288-3671 – Fax
gketterl@state.nd.us

McKenzie County Auditor

PO Box 543
Watford City ND 58854-0543
701-444-3616 – Phone
701-444-4113 – Fax
folson@4eyes.net

McLean County Auditor

PO Box 1108
Washburn ND 58577-1108
701-462-8541 – Phone
701-462-3542 – Fax
mcleanco@westriv.com

Mercer County Auditor

PO Box 39
Stanton ND 58571-0039
701-745-3292 – Phone
701-745-3793 – Fax
sbohrer@state.nd.us

Morton County Auditor

210 2nd Avenue NW
Mandan ND 58554-3158
701-667-3300 – Phone
701-667-3453 – Fax
ptrauger@state.nd.us

Mountrail County Auditor

PO Box 69
Stanley ND 58784-0069
701-628-2145 – Phone
701-628-3975 – Fax
karene@co.mountrail.nd.us

Nelson County Auditor

210 B Ave W Ste 201
Lakota ND 58344-7410
701-247-2463 – Phone
701-247-2754 – Fax
wdauidso@state.nd.us

Oliver County Auditor

PO Box 188
Center ND 58530-0188
701-794-8721 – Phone
701-794-3476 – Fax
bflaming@state.nd.us

Pembina County Auditor

301 Dakota Street West #1
Cavalier ND 58220-4100
701-265-4231 – Phone
701-265-4876 – Fax
drobinso@state.nd.us

Pierce County Auditor

240 SE 2nd Street
Rugby ND 58368-1897
701-776-5225 – Phone
701-776-5225 – Fax
kfursath@state.nd.us

Ramsey County Auditor

524 4th Avenue Unit 6
Devils Lake ND 58301
701-662-7007 – Phone
701-662-7049 – Fax
befische@state.nd.us

Ransom County Auditor

PO Box 668
Lisbon ND 58054-0668
701-683-5823 – Phone
701-683-5827 – Fax
cgilbert@state.nd.us

Renville County Auditor

PO Box 68
Mohall ND 58761-0068
701-756-6301 – Phone
701-756-7158 – Fax
lfisher@state.nd.us

Richland County Auditor

418 2nd Avenue N
Wahpeton ND 58075-4400
701-642-7700 – Phone
701-642-7701 – Fax
hbailey@state.nd.us

Rolette County Auditor

PO Box 939
Rolla ND 58367-0939
701-477-5665 – Phone
701-477-6339 – Fax
vmcccloud@state.nd.us

Sargent County Auditor

PO Box 177
Forman ND 58032-0177
701-724-6241 – Phone
701-724-6244 – Fax
shosford@state.nd.us

Sheridan County Auditor

PO Box 439
McClusky ND 58463-0439
701-363-2205 – Phone
701-363-2953 – Fax
smurray@state.nd.us

Sioux County Auditor

PO Box L
Fort Yates ND 58538-0529
701-854-3481 – Phone
701-854-3854 – Fax
bhettich@state.nd.us

Slope County Auditor

PO Box NN
Amidon ND 58620-0449
701-879-6276 – Phone
701-879-6278 – Fax
rbraun@state.nd.us

Stark County Auditor

PO Box 130
Dickinson ND 58602-0130
701-456-7630 – Phone
701-456-7634 – Fax
aschulz@state.nd.us

Steele County Auditor

PO Box 275
Finley ND 58230-0275
701-524-2110 – Phone
701-524-1715 – Fax
leadbet@state.nd.us

Stutsman County Auditor

511 2nd Avenue SE
Jamestown ND 58401-4299
701-252-9035 – Phone
701-251-6325 – Fax
nojohnso@state.nd.us

Towner County Auditor

PO Box 603
Cando ND 58324-0603
701-968-4340 – Phone
701-968-4342 – Fax
vmartz@state.nd.us

Trail County Auditor

PO Box 429
Hillsboro ND 58045-0429
701-636-4458 – Phone
701-636-5418 – Fax
rbraaten@state.nd.us

Walsh County Auditor

600 Cooper Avenue
Grafton ND 58237-1535
701-352-2851 – Phone
701-352-3340 – Fax
skinsala@state.nd.us

Ward County Auditor

PO Box 5005
Minot ND 58702-5005
701-857-6420 – Phone
701-857-6424 – Fax
auditor@www.co.ward.nd.us

Wells County Auditor

PO Box 37
Fessenden ND 58438-0037
701-547-3521 – Phone
701-547-3719 – Fax
jrudel@state.nd.us

Williams County Auditor

PO Box 2047
Williston ND 58802-2047
701-577-4500 – Phone
701-577-4510 – Fax
bethi@co.williams.nd.us

SECRETARY OF STATE

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ELECTIONS DIVISION

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